

Information

Recorded water levels in this bulletin are derived from a representative network of water level gages on each lake (see cover map). Providers of these data are the U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA, National Ocean Service, and Integrated Science Data Management, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada. The Detroit District, Corps of Engineers and Environment Canada derive historic and projected lake levels under the auspices of the Coordinating Committee on Great Lakes Basic Hydraulic and Hydrologic Data.

This bulletin is produced monthly as a public service. The Corps also, on a weekly basis publishes online the *Great Lakes, Connecting Channels and St. Lawrence River Water Levels and Depths*, which provides a forecast of depths in the connecting rivers between the Great Lakes and the International Section of the St. Lawrence River. This *Monthly Bulletin of the Lake Levels for the Great Lakes* may be obtained free of charge by writing to the address shown on the front cover, by calling (313) 226-6442 or emailing hhpm@usace.army.mil. Notices of change of address should include the name of the publication. This information is available on the internet at <http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Missions/GreatLakesInformation.aspx>.

Great Lakes Basin Hydrology August 2015

The Great Lakes basin as a whole saw near average precipitation during the month of August. Following a month of below average precipitation in July, the Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron basins received somewhat higher August precipitation than average (10% and 5% higher than average, respectively). Lake Erie, on the other hand received 14% less precipitation than average during the month of August. Lake Ontario received close to average August precipitation. Lake Superior and Lake Michigan-Huron saw above average net basin supplies in August while Lake Erie and Lake Ontario experienced lower than average net basin supplies. The tables below list August precipitation and water supply information for all Great Lakes basins.

A comparison of monthly mean lake levels for August to long-term average (1918-2014) shows all lakes at levels above long term average August levels. Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron were 6 and 7 inches above long-term August average levels, respectively. Lake St. Clair and Erie were 13 and 15 inches, respectively, above their long-term August averages. Lake Ontario was 9 inches above its August average.

PRECIPITATION (INCHES)								
BASIN	August				12-Month Comparison			
	2015	Average (1900-2012)	Diff.	% of Average	Last 12 Months	Average (1900-2012)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	3.45	3.15	0.30	110	30.34	30.43	-0.09	100
Michigan-Huron	3.27	3.11	0.16	105	30.34	32.48	-2.14	93
Erie	2.77	3.23	-0.46	86	33.57	35.59	-2.02	94
Ontario	3.05	3.11	-0.06	98	29.64	35.83	-6.19	83
Great Lakes	3.24	3.15	0.09	103	30.53	32.68	-2.15	93

LAKE	August Net Basin Supplies ¹ (cfs)		August Outflows ² (cfs)	
	2015	Average (1900-2008)	2015	Average ³ (1900-2008)
Superior	103,000	94,000	108,000	83,000
Michigan-Huron	62,000	53,000	198,000	195,000
Erie	-17,000	-10,000	240,000	209,000
Ontario	5,000	8,000	297,000	256,000

Notes: Values (excluding averages) are based on preliminary computations; cfs denotes cubic feet per second.

¹ Net basin supply is the net result of precipitation falling on the lake, runoff from precipitation falling on the land which flows to the lake, and evaporation from the lake. Negative net basin supply denotes evaporation exceeded runoff and precipitation. The net total supply can be found by adding the net basin supply and the outflow from the upstream lake.

² Does not include diversions.

³ Lake Ontario average water supplies and average outflows are based on period of record 1900-2005